

REMARKS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-23 were pending in the application. Claims 1-14 and 16-23 are cancelled, and claim 15 amended, by this Response.

In the Office Action of January 3, 2006, the Patent and Trademark Office ('PTO') objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure as not in compliance with the proper language and format requirements. While applicant respectfully disagrees, in an effort to progress beyond such minutiae, Applicant has amended the Abstract without affecting the scope of the specification or the support for the claims.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

In the Office Action, claim 12 stands rejected as allegedly indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the feature characterized as "the detectable indication" in line 1 of claim 12. The Examiner alleges that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 12 has been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection of claim 12 is moot and should be withdrawn.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6, 9, and 13

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, 9, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent 2,187,676 to Biewen (hereinafter 'Biewen') in view of U.S. Patent 5,123,130 to Sanders (hereinafter 'Sanders').

Applicant has cancelled rejected claims 1-3, 6, 9, and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer, to pursue them in a related application. Therefore, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 7, 10-12, 14 and 16-23

Claims 4, 7, 10-12, 14 and 16-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent 2,187,676 to Biewen in view of Sanders and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,939,088 to Ito et al. (hereinafter 'Ito').

Claims 4, 7, 10-12, 14 and 16-23 have been cancelled by this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer to further prosecution in another application. Therefore, the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim 5

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Biewen in view of U.S. Patent 4,125,656 to Creamer (hereinafter 'Creamer').

Claim 5 has been cancelled by this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer to further prosecution in another application. Therefore, the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim 8

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Biewen in view of Creamer.

Similarly, claim 8 has been cancelled by this amendment without estoppel or prejudice to further prosecution in another application. Therefore, the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot and should be withdrawn.

III. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 15 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all limitations of base claim 14, from which it depends. Claim 15 has been amended in this way, and is now submitted to be in condition for allowance.

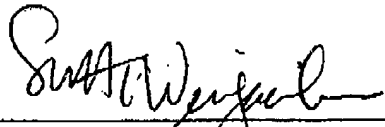
For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that pending claim 15 is in condition for allowance, which is hereby requested. Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge one-month extension fee in the amount of \$60.00 to Deposit Account No. 23-1703. If any additional fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

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Respectfully submitted,

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